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REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE OF  
INFORMATION 1951

SUBJECT Sociological - Living standard

DATE DIST. 23 Oct 1951

HOW  
PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

NO. OF PAGES 1

WHERE  
PUBLISHED ViennaDATE  
PUBLISHED 14 Sep 1951SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE German

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SOURCE

Osterreichische Volksstimme.WORKERS' LIVING STANDARD RISES

On the basis of the 48-hour work week Czechoslovak workers earn the following monthly wages: machine fitter, 5,000 crowns; hairdresser's helper, 4,000; kindergarten teacher, 3,000 plus room and board; locomotive engineer, 5,000-8,000; glassblower, 7,000; stenotypist, 3,500. and factory manager, 8,000 crowns. If a worker becomes ill, he may receive 80 percent of his wages for one year.

The cost of living is low, while the purchasing power of wages is high. A Czechoslovak family of three spends only 25-30 percent of the breadwinner's take-home pay for food rations. The family pays 40-60 crowns a kilogram for meat, 55 crowns for fat, 39 for margarine, 80 for butter, 15 for sugar, 18 for flour, and 5-8 crowns for bread. This means that workers are able to buy all sorts of additional food products on the free market. In addition, they are able to obtain cheap meals in their plant cafeterias, in return for a few stamps. At present, the average Czechoslovak worker earns the price of his lunch in 21 minutes, while before the war he worked 2 hours to earn his noon meal.

The clothing ration consists of 120 points. A 25-point dress of the highest quality costs 600-1,800 crowns, a 9- to 12-point men's shirt 120-190 crowns, and a 60-point men's suit costs 600-2,000 crowns.

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